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(54) Title: DATABASE FOR MICROBIAL INVESTIGATIONS

(57) Abstract: A centralized system provides for locating, storing and providing microbial-related information, including pathogens, diseases, symptoms, genetic information, and related documentation. A centralized database relates pathogens to diseases that they cause, symptoms of those diseases, genetic information about the pathogens, and documentation that is associated with any of the above. By analyzing the stored data, the system recognizes duplicated information, for example a pathogen present in the database twice, each time under a different taxonomical name, and creates a link from one instance of the pathogen to the other. The system additionally identifies common genes and sequences among related organisms. A researcher uses the system to perform investigations. For example, a medical doctor can enter patient symptoms to obtain a list of consistent diseases and associated pathogens. The system also tracks the progression of an outbreak and identifies similar occurrences by searching the World Wide Web and reporting results.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/33742

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC: G01N 33/48(2006.01);G06F 19/00(2006.01) USPC: 702/19;702/32 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 702/19;702/32 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Please See Continuation Sheet		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 6389428 B1 (RIGAULT et al) 14 May 2002 (14.05.2002).	1 ----- 2-15
X --- Y	US 6,553,317 (Lincoln et al) 22 April 2003 (22.4.2003).	1-2, 9 ----- 3-9, 10-15
X,P --- Y	US 2005/0065813 (Mishelevich et al) 24 March 2005 (24.03.2005).	1-15
Y	US 2003/0082539 (Ecker et al) 1 May 2003 (1.05.2003).	3-4, 8, 10-11, 15
Y	US 2003/0187615 (Epler et al) 2 October 2003 (02.10.2003).	5-7 and 12-14
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 21 March 2006 (21.03.2006)		Date of mailing of the international search report 15 MAY 2006
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201		Authorized officer Marjorie Moran. Telephone No. (571)272-1600

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

East, STN, Biosis, Compuscience, Biotechno, Biotechds, Medline, Embase, WPI covering search terms: database, microbial, bacterial, viral, pathogen, symptom, disease, network, GUI, user interface, anthrax, infectious disease, forensic, request, query